

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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SUBJECT: ACADEMICS REPLIES ON EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. THE RESPONSES FROM AMERICAN ACADEMICIANS ON THE NEW ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH VENEZUELA (STATE 017715) ARE BEING SENT DOWN WITH THE INSPECTION TEAM ARRIVING FEB. 1. THE PACKET INCLUDES COPIES FOR THE POST, AND CU/ARA DIRECTOR MAX CHAPLIN, WHO WILL BE IN CARACAS FEB. 1.

2. THE PROFESSORS WERE ASKED TO MAKE GENERAL COMMENTS ON OUR PROPOSED STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND TO RECOMMEND SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION. AS MORE RESPONSES COME IN, THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO POST.

3. THE PACKET INCLUDES RESPONSES FROM PROFS. JOHN MARTZ, POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA; FRANKLIN TUGWELL, POLITICAL SCIENCE, POMONA COLLEGE; ROBERT ARNOVE, EDUCATION, INDIANA UNIVERSITY; JOHN LOMBARDI, HISTORY, INDIANA UNIVERSITY; DANIEL LEVINE, POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN; JOHANNES WILBERT, ANTHROPOLOGY, LATIN AMERICAN CENTER, LOS ANGELES; GEORGE SCHUYLER, DIRECTOR OF IBERO-AMERICAN STUDIES, STONYBROOK; AND ROBERT APMANN, CIVIL ENGINEERING, BUFFALO, NY. PROFS. MARTZ AND TUGWELL WERE TWO OF THE THREE US SCHOLARS INVITED BY THE VENEZUELAN

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GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND NATIONALIZATION CEREMONIES JAN.

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4. THE PROFESSORS WERE ALL COMPLIMENTARY AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE NEW APPROACH. EDUCATIONAL PLANNING WAS THE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED TOPIC, FOLLOWED BY ENGINEERING, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADMINISTRATION, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, ENERGY, URBAN SOCIOLOGY, ECONOMIC THEORY AND PLANNING, ANTHROPOLOGY AND OTHERS.

5. THEIR GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERN THE STRUCTURAL FORMAT, GENERAL EMPHASIS AND SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE PROGRAM. A MAJOR CONSIDERATION WAS THE UPGRADING OF PLANNING, MANAGERIAL AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS OF THE VENEZUELAN TO ENABLE THEM TO FACE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE: ESTABLISH SOME PEDAGOGICAL TIES WITH GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO AND/OR THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONAL TIES BETWEEN US AND VENEZUELAN UNIVERSITIES, INSURE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS BY SELECTING ONLY THE MOST HIGHLY SKILLED AND TRAINED AS PARTICIPANTS, PROVIDE FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF PROVINCIAL VENEZUELAN UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE CARACAS, EMPHASIZE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROBLEM SOLVING APPROACH, AND INCLUDE A NUMBER OF HUMANISTIC SCHOLARS.

6. THE PROFESSORS ALSO REPEATED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR US AND VENEZUELAN SCHOLARS BY CREATING BONDS OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST, REINFORCING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND STIMULATING RESEARCH ON THE US BY VENEZUELAN SCHOLARS. KISSINGER

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